

Interviewing Questions

- I was asked at pretty much every place whether or not I would actually be willing to live there. In NYC, this translated into, "NYC is a lot more expensive than Chicago. Why would you leave Chicago?" In Pitt/Michigan, etc it translated into "So, you are from NYC, lived in SF, and are now in school in Chicago. Would you ever consider not living in a major city?"
- My feelings about the impact of pharmaceutical advertising on patient care.
- Which other internal medicine programs really impressed you? What about them did you like?
- My research (this was common)
- Many places wondered why I would leave Northwestern, or if I am battle-hardened enough coming out of Northwestern to handle some more rough and tumble programs.
- Most of the time I was asked fairly basic questions about why I was interested in ENT, why I wanted to go to that program, talk about my research, or talk about a memorable patient.
- I had the topic of being in Med Students for Life group come up in quite a few interviews. One interviewer asked "why on Earth would you include something so extremist on your application?"
- Many ethics dilemmas: operating on kid of a Jehovah's witness, caring for a man found down with aids needing CPR, when to discipline an intern as a senior resident.
- What would you do if your chief resident told the attending on rounds that a patient was doing well without having seen them, when in fact you knew the patient was pretty sick?
- Lots of why this field, why this school?
- Weirdest food you ever ate.
- What would your gravestone say?
- Super power you want to have.
- What would be on page 220 of your autobiography?
- Dinner with one fictional character...
- The most common question I was asked was "What questions do you have about the program?". This actually made the interview harder for me because I didn't always have a lot of questions and ended up having to make them up.

- The questions that I was asked were usually about things I put in my CV.
- I was also asked about my 4th year rotations and my personal statement.
- (General Surgery) Why did you not honor your 3rd year surgery clerkship?
- How do you feel about the 80 hr work week?
- What is the biggest challenge you have faced in med school?
- Do you consider yourself organized? What do you do to stay organized?
- What would you do if you knew an attending was repeatedly working while impaired/intoxicated?
- (Gen Surg) Why did you choose to interview at XXXX, being that Northwestern is a strong program as well?
- (Gen Surg) ...asked me to explain any research I have done in the past. What does a P-value of 0.05 mean?
- How does Northwestern compare to us?
- If you could go on a trip anywhere in the world, where would it be, and why?
- Tell us about an interesting case you saw.
- What is your favorite sitcom?
- What are you most proud of in your life?
- Tell us why we should take you over other applicants? What are your greatest strengths, weaknesses?
- Describe a conflict that you have encountered with a nurse/staff member and what you did to resolve it?
- The most common questions which almost every place will ask: Why Surgery? Are you interested in any particular specialty? Where do you see yourself in 10 yrs? What are your future goals? What are your greatest strengths/weaknesses? Who have been your greatest mentors, and why? Tell me about yourself. Tell me about the research you did. Can you explain ___ which was in your personal statement? What are you looking for in a program? Why did you apply to our program? Did you interview at (interviewer's alma mater)? What did you think about it, or did you like it? Do you have any questions for me?
- (IM) Tell me a little bit about yourself.

- How did you decide on Internal Medicine?
- What do you do to unwind?
- How will you avoid burnout?
- What are your grades for your M4 rotations?
- Name a patient and a mentor who taught you something vital
- How will you deal with it when, despite your best efforts, your mistakes lead to death or disability in your patient?
- How will you deal with it when, despite your best efforts, therapy is futile?
- How are old patients different from young patients?
- Did your college major help you or hurt you in medical school?
- What is the single biggest lesson you have learned in medical school?
- I realize Internal Medicine is a buyers' market, but in spite of that, what have you got that should make us consider you over any of the other people applying here?
- "What do you think the most challenging aspect of ophthalmology will be?" 1 program asked why I didn't honor surgery.
- What worries you most about residency?
- How do you deal with constructive criticism?
- What animal would you describe yourself as and why?
- What does leadership mean to you?
- What would you improve about the specialty you are pursuing?
- 'It's your execution and you get to request your last meal. What is it?
- "How do I know you perform well under pressure?"
- "I see that you have many successes. Please tell me about some of your failures during medical school."
- Tell me a time your team experienced a negative dynamic.

- Tell me about a time when you led a group or team and things did not turn out the way that you wanted.
- Describe a recent scenario when you and your team were incorrect about a recent diagnosis.
- One handed knots both hands separately (perform)
- Please move as many of the coffee beans from this container to the other with forceps using your non-dominant hand first. (perform)
- Harvard Ethics room: Tell me about a mistake you made in patient care and how you rectified it. Tell me about a time that your ethics were challenged on a team (medical or non-medical). Tell me about a time that you violated confidentiality and why you did it. Tell me about one of your core values and a time that you went against it. Would you rather be liked or respected?
- Harvard Chair room: Tell me something academic that you have participated in and where your career is going (15 minutes to answer the question)
- Harvard teamwork room: Tell me about a time that you disagreed with someone in higher authority and how you handled it. How do you go about persuading someone to have the same opinion as you?. How will you balance being a leader and being a team player during residency - ie: how will you stand out amongst residents but still be a team player? If you noticed your colleague was consistently seeing less patients than you (ie: she was seeing 3 and you were seeing six in an afternoon of clinic), how would you handle it? Tell me about a time you struggled on a team.
- Harvard leadership room: Tell me about your biggest success/achievement. Tell me about a good experience with leadership. Tell me about a time you disagreed with a team member and how you resolved the issue. What makes you most excited within the medical field and outside of the medical field?
- Harvard personality room: Tell me about a time that you were criticized and how you handled it. What's a flaw that you need to work on? Tell me about a failure. Tell me about a major change and how you coped with it.
- Harvard med dermatology: Why med dermatology? Tell me about a time you disagreed with a team member and how you went about it. What is your 5-year and 10-year plan.

- Hopkins: Tell us a joke that you could tell a child. Summarize your life history in 90 seconds. What's something about life that you learned about from your parents? What do you do that makes you feel like a kid?
- UPMC: If you had to give a Ted Talk what would it be?
- NYU: Tell me about a time that you taught a medical student. Tell me about an uncertain diagnosis and how you went about coming to the correct diagnosis. Tell me about a time that you heard a lecture in medical school and it prompted you to do something/change something - what you did about it. Ten years from now you look in the mirror - tell me what you see ("answer in the spirit that I asked the question"). What is your 10-year plan? - in every room
- Northwestern: Give me the name of a lecture you would give in 10 years. What's your biggest life accomplishment? What other career would you pursue within medicine if not dermatology? What's a weakness that you're working to correct? Tell me about a mentor that you have.
- Columbia: If you could be one dermatologic diagnosis which would you be? Why Columbia (multiple times)? What are your career goals?
- Cornell: What's your top choice for prelim? What are three words one of your classmates would use to describe you? What are you looking for in co-residents? Tell me about an academic and non-academic achievement. Is there anything else you wanted us to know that wasn't highlighted on your application? How should I advocate for you on the admissions committee? What other career would you pursue outside of medicine?
- Einstein: Where do you want to do prelim? career goals; research interests; Why Einstein? Where did you do aways - why this school over your aways? Why Einstein over your home program? What makes you famous (amongst your friends)?
- Downstate: Tell me a story (about anything).
- LIJ: If you had one superpower what would it be? If you could re-name the Northshore LIJ healthcare system what would you rename it to? What qualities should a healthcare brand/name exude?
- UoMinnesota: Teach me something non-medical or medical (will give you a chalk board). How should we advocate for you on the admissions committee? Why should we take you? What other career would you pursue outside of medicine? List of words - pick which is most meaningful to you (family;

integrity; purpose; compassion; service; respect... etc.). Tell me about your ideal Sunday off and how you could spend your perfect day.

- MCW: If there were two flies on the wall and one had positive things to say about you and one had negative things to say about you, what would they be?
- Stony Brook: What type of learner are you? (will lead you to visual learner) Then - give me an example from your younger life of being a visual learner. Greatest life accomplishment. How did you become interested in our school? Tell me about a mentor you have in Derm and why he/she inspires you. Tell me about a random act of kindness you did in the last week.
- UIC: Tell me something interesting that's not on your application.
- Cook county: If you had one wish what would it be? What is your perfect day?
- UT Austin: Tell me about a time you saw something unjust happen and you did something to stop it. Tell me about a disagreement on a team.